Fits Faints and Funny turns
Differential diagnosis of a seizure

- Syncope - Vasovagal
- Cardiac causes - cardiomyopathy/prolonged QTc
- Breath holding
- Reflex anoxic seizures/ Reflex anoxic syncope
- Psuedo seizures
- Emotional syncope
- Valsalva/ constipation
- Stereotypical behaviours
- Tics
- Gratification habits
- Basilar migraine
- Paroxysmal spasmodic torticollis
- Benign paroxysmal vertigo
Is the episode a seizures?
What’s the cause of the seizure?
Is this epilepsy?
What is the cause of the epilepsy? NOW think EEG
Classify epilepsy into a syndrome?
• If not then TREAT the “funny turn”
• If not sure then watchful waiting
• Get more information
Important key point to learn today!

- What is the difference between a generalised seizure and a generalised epilepsy?
Noah

- 18 months
- Three episodes when his mother says he is found on the floor unresponsive, floor and jerks lasts about 30mins but father thinks less.
- Preceded by a cry
- After he appears confused and inconsolable
- EEG performed by the SHO after being seen in A/E - normal
- ECG normal QTc 0.42sec
- 24hr ECG normal
- FH father used to do this as a child and was treated with Phenytoin
- Comes to discuss if they should give a trail of anticonvulsant
Ellie

- 12 years of age
- C/O fit at school
- Fat lasting 5 minutes witness by the first aider (whose sister used to have fits)
- Called 999 by the maths teacher was sick and confused afterwards
- In A/E now feeling better fully conscious a slight headache
- B?S by paramedics 6.5
- PMH febrile convulsion resulting in an PICU admission for 24 hours given rectal diazepam that mother still carries
- FH Mother has epilepsy on Tegretol
- Exam normal
- No focal signs to find
- One café au lait spot
- Referred to you asking if they could attend first fit clinic and an EEG has been organised
Part two - clinic

- Further episode occurred during home tec and at home witness by her older sister
- School refuse to have her back unless “some things is done”
- Mother is sleeping in her bedroom on the floor
- EEG – non specific changes has occasional spikes
MAX

- 4 years of age- 8 daily episodes cries sits down goes rigid eyes roll back lasting 2mins then confused afterwards for a bout 30mins.
- Described as pale
- Max says he feels dizzy before hand.
- Neurodevelopmental normal
- No other reported problems – absence episodes reported by the nursery but not noted at home
- PMH – sinus bradycardia as neonate seen by Cardiologist at GOS happy with him
- Examination normal HR 70 nil else
- Echo normal
- ECG normal
- Normal QTc -0.44sec

• 24hour tape mum went to anyway not cancelled
Tom

- 4 years of age
- Well when went to school had a fit in school and an ambulance was called as mum was unavailable
- Lasted for 10mins described in a/e clerking as tonic clonic generalised fit lasting 3 minutes.
- Now very well
- Given calpol by the A/E sister
- Examination normal.
- Mother says has had 15 febrile convulsions normally they don’t some to A/E
- Neuro developmentally normal
- What do you think is going on
- What are you going to do
• TAKE A HISTORY THE EVENT AND THE RUN UP AND AFTER.
• If your not sure adopt watchful waiting DO NOT order an EEG unless you think it will give you information and interoperated the information with the clinical case
• Give advice
EEG

- EEG maybe normal even in a child with epilepsy MUST council the parents before hand
- EEG report is as good as the information you give the neurophysiologist
- Answer a question
- The result must fit the clinical picture
- Non specific abnormalities MUST be interpreted correctly
Important key point to learn today!

- What is the difference between a generalised seizure and a generalised epilepsy?
1. What are the risk for a reoccurrence after one seizure? After two seizures?
2. What should you tell them to do at school?
3. What's the advice regarding swimming?
4. What's the advice about sleeping arrangements?
5. What's to do about TV and computer games?
6. Any other advice?
7. You reg wants to give them Midazolam prescribe it?
www.stars.org.uk
www.epilepsy.org.uk/info
Epilepsy advice and information

What is epilepsy?
Caring for a baby or young child when you have epilepsy: a detailed guide
Children
Depression and epilepsy
Developing epilepsy in later life
Disability Discrimination Act (UK)
Driving and epilepsy
Education
Entitlements and benefits for people with epilepsy
Epilepsy and learning disabilities
Epilepsy and Travel abroad
Epilepsy information for prisons
Epilepsy, osteoporosis and osteomalacia
Flu and epilepsy
Getting a diagnosis
Identity jewellery
Inheritance
Living with difficult to control epilepsy
Me and my dad